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NEWS PERSPECTIVE

Red Hand on the Peace Marchers

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LONDON.

A two-way, often competitive Communist influence has been inserted skillfully into activities of militant American student groups protesting against the United States role in Viet Nam.

After prodigious inquiry and double-checks where available, many Western governments have satisfied themselves of special Communist backing, consultation and cash contributions.

The competition, although it often follows the same guide lines, is between a veteran Soviet-sponsored students' International and assorted missions in Eastern Europe of the National Liberation Front, the formal identification for the Viet Cong.

Some of the governments to whom the information has come, it was learned yesterday, had until very recently been skeptical. They heard on a very high level last spring, some of the reports of Communist infiltration into the students' organizations.

DETAILS

Six to eight months later and following a series of activist student pro-Viet Cong demonstrations in the U. S., updated details on Communist insinuation in the movements have come to light.

Foremost, best-heeled and highly experienced in providing support and advice is the Prague-based International Union of Students (ISU).

Organized by the Soviet Union nearly 20 years ago, it has a world-wide, affiliated apparatus. Leadership remains in the hands of professional Russian students in their mid-thirties or older, plus equally veteran East Europeans.

Ironically, the ISU has kept itself lily white, excluding African students from high echelons as "undisciplined elements." Suspicion, corre-

spondingly, has kept Viet Cong missions from having a kind of popular front operation with ISU.

Nevertheless, their separate efforts have not impinged on their student objectives, namely, to get across the pro-Viet Cong messages to student militants in America and Europe.

CLICHES

The ISU, for example, has managed in the last few months to circulate a lexicon of terms now frequently heard in militant American student demonstrations.

These use cliches like "Fascist junta" for the military regime in South Viet Nam, "people's war" for the combined Viet Cong-North Vietnamese military operations and "imperialist aggressors" for Americans.

A do-it-yourself method of making Viet Cong flags like those borne in demonstrations recently, also has been distributed by the ISU. Contributions, in money orders and small but numerous gifts of cash by donors using mail drops across the U. S., have fortified the deficit financing of many demonstrations.

Contacts with the ISU or Viet Cong missions by students are pretty easy. Any student traveling last summer in Eastern Europe who showed a pro-Viet Cong or anti-American involvement knew about access to these offices.

To sift out non-believers and skeptics, the ISU and Viet Cong handed out only literature. Letters of recommendation took students with credible militant views higher.

Before school recessed last summer, the ISU bulletin was circulated in advance of its distribution times, calling for "days of protest." These circulars, as subsequently others, were brought back, copied and disseminated around campuses back home.

The ISU appeal has, almost word for word, been reproduced in California, where student demonstrators have been among the most active. In the latest ISU sort of person-to-person appeals, the call is to organize a special Viet Nam day on a big campus.

More inhibited, perhaps because of suspicion of Soviet-sponsored maneuvers, the Viet Cong missions offer lectures, leaflets and propaganda techniques to promote their side. In the last fortnight, they have begun to offer a few selected prospects invitations to go to North Viet Nam to talk directly to Viet Cong representatives there.

Eager, inquiring Americans are also warned to shy away from the U. S. National Student Association and the U. S. Youth Council. These organizations are denounced by the ISU and Viet Cong as "puppets" of U. S. administration policy.

No American student, as far as is known, has been invited to go into the war zone of the south. That offer, informants fully believe, is the next step.

FBI KNOWS

From the Herald Tribune Bureau
WASHINGTON.

Existence and operations of the I. S. U. have long been known by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, qualified sources said yesterday.

The Prague-based organization has sponsored a number of world youth festivals and was described here as having had links with U. S. student groups for some time.

The FBI has been quietly investigating Communist activities in U. S. student organizations, but the probe surfaced in the wake of the anti-Viet Nam demonstrations on various campuses.

Last spring, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover described some aspects of the anti-war movement as "part of a diabolical

scheme contrived by the Communist party U. S. A., an integral arm of the International Communist conspiracy."

On Oct. 18, Attorney General Nicholas A. Katzenbach said the Justice Department was probing suspected Communist infiltration of the anti-draft, anti-Viet Nam demonstrations.

Protest groups whose members have received FBO attention include the Students for a Democratic Society, which has militated against the draft; the W. E. B. DuBois Club, a Left-wing student group described by Mr. Hoover as "Marxist-oriented," and the Viet Nam Day Committee.

PROTEST DAYS

The Viet Nam Day Committee, based in Berkeley, Calif., describes itself in a handbill as "The International headquarters and one of the 33 member groups of the National Committee to End the War in Viet Nam (and) a group of students, faculty and residents of the San Francisco Bay area opposed to American intervention in Viet Nam, the Dominican Republic and wherever else it may occur."

In a flyer calling upon other groups to observe Oct. 15-16 as "international days of protest," The VDC said: "Revolutionary struggles for self-determination are sweeping the world today. American suppression of these movements is immoral and a threat to the peace of the world. We believe that the struggle for self-determination in other continents is related to the struggle for democracy in America."

"The struggles in America against racism, poverty and bureaucratic conformity are part of the same movement as the struggle against American militarism and imperialism."

"We must build a New America and join with those peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America in building a new world."